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Whitley Bay Golf Club

Northumberland

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Whitley Bay Golf Course & The Challenge

Whitley Bay Golf Club, founded in 1890 sits within half a mile of the Northumberland coast, its parkland and heathland framed by views of Whitley Bay Lighthouse. Designed with the influence of 1912 Open champion Ted Ray, the course has hosted major events and holds GEO sustainability certification.

Its undulating terrain includes the Briardene watercourse, a natural dene crossing several holes, contributing to persistently damp, low-lying ground. Combined with the club's exposed coastal location and heavy year-round footfall from members and visitors, the existing pathway network struggled to cope, becoming muddy, uneven and prone to standing water after rainfall. This regularly created slip hazards, restricted access for buggies and wheelchair users and demanded frequent, costly maintenance, the club needed a durable, low-maintenance surfacing solution.





Transforming Golf Course Accessibility

The installation at Whitley Bay was delivered in two parts, First, PMP Surfacing's own team laid 400m2 of Flexipave in Stone Age Bronze, a porous surface made from recycled rubber and natural stone aggregate, across key pathway areas.

The second phase was completed through PMP Surfacing's Golf Club Partnership Scheme, with the greenkeeping team installing further sections themselves, cutting disruption and cost to a minimum. The warm bronze tone blends with the parkland and heathland surroundings, while the free-draining, slip-resistant surface improves safety and now needs minimal upkeep.



Key Benefits Summary

No Standing Water - porous, free-draining surface prevents puddling and reduces erosion, even after heavy coastal rainfall.

Improved Safety - slip-resistant, robust finish gives better grip underfoot for golfers, buggies and members with mobility needs.

Year-round Accessibility - paths remain usable in wet and muddy conditions rather than closing or degrading.

Lower long-term maintenance - far less repair, regrading and drainage work required compared with the previous surface.

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GOLF COURSE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME
Direct Purchasing for Sustainable Surfacing
flexipave

At Whitley Bay, the second phase of the project was carried out through PMP Surfacing's Golf Club Partnership Scheme with the club's own greenkeeping team installing the remaining pathway sections, guided by PMP Surfacing on preparing and laying Flexipave. This approach reduced the disruption to play to a minimum and helped manage installation costs for the club.

It also meant the greenkeeping team gained hands-on experience with the material, giving them the added confidence to carry out future repairs or extensions to the pathway network.

Whitley Bay Golf Club Testimonial

"We have worked closely with PMP Surfacing over the past four years. Initially, our Course Manager, Martin Woods, had seen Flexipave at the BTME Exhibition in Harrogate and, after joining the Club, he felt that Flexipave could help get the club out of a real issue. Our bridge over the Dene had been condemned, and the replacement was far too costly. The only alternative was to use the maintenance track down into and up out of the Dene.

PMP Surfacing used Flexipave to create an all-weather, porous, non-slip surface on the path. The pathway running through the trees has now become a real feature of the course.
We decided as a club that all our paths would benefit from a Flexipave surface. Working with PMP Surfacing, our team was trained in the installation, becoming Strategic Golf Partners with PMP Surfacing. With our in-house experience, we prepared the paths for the Flexipave ourselves.

Through the efforts of Martin and his team, we have saved nearly £50,000 in installation costs and via the discounts passed on to us as Partners. With over 2,500m² of path now installed over the years, we really feel that Flexipave is a major asset to the club. It has helped us to create what we feel is a 365-day golf course, helping to retain existing members and attract new ones to the club."

Martin Woods, Course Manager

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